

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Bob Lake, on April 4, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)  
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)  
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)  
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)  
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)  
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 529, 3/15/2007; SB 549,  
3/20/2007; SB 552, 3/30/2007; SB  
470, 3/28/2007

Executive Action: HB 833

**HEARING ON SB 549**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:25 Sen. Bob Story (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 549, Revise property tax classification criteria of certain agricultural land.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:20 Randy Wilke, Department of Revenue

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:16:18 Dallas Reece, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:16:33 Rep. Erickson  
00:18:45 Sen. Story  
00:18:58 Rep. Cohenour  
00:19:29 Dallas Reece  
00:19:56 Rep. Ross  
00:20:24 Dallas Reece  
00:21:05 Sen. Story

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:21:40 Sen. Bob Story

**HEARING ON SB 529**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:22:28 Sen. Jeff Essmann (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 529, Constitutionally restrict property taxes.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:26:10 Sen. Jeff Essmann

**HEARING ON SB 552**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:26:45 Sen. Dan Harrington (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on SB 552, Tax credit for volunteer firefighters.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:27:49 David Kneebone, Volunteer Firefighter  
00:30:29 Leonard Lundby, Fire Chief, Manchester Volunteer Fire Company  
00:32:27 Brett Waters, Fire Chief, Belgrade and Gallatin County  
00:35:30 Bob Drake, Fire Chief, Tri Lakes Fire Department  
00:36:52 Jerry Shepherd, Fire Chief, West Valley Fire Department  
00:38:09 Cliff Christian, representing the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association  
00:40:48 Brian Crandell, Central Valley Fire District

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:41:26 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:41:43 Rep. Butcher  
00:44:55 Rep. Ross

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:45:53 Sen. Dan Harrington

**HEARING ON SB 470**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:46:40 Sen. Jim Elliott (D), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB 470, Make grantor trusts pass-through entities for tax withholding and reporting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:53:38 Brenda Gilmer, Department of Revenue  
[EXHIBIT](#)(tah72a01)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:00:01 George Olsen, Montana Society of CPA's

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:06:46 Rep. Cohenour  
01:12:15 George Olsen  
01:15:14 Rep. Lambert  
01:16:58 Rep. Butcher  
01:18:56 George Olsen  
01:19:38 Rep. Erickson  
01:20:34 George Olsen  
01:20:49 Brenda Gilmer  
01:25:39 Rep. Hamilton  
01:26:14 George Olsen  
01:30:05 Rep. Cohenour  
01:31:30 Brenda Gilmer  
01:33:11 Chairman Lake  
01:33:53 Brenda Gilmer

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:35:22 Sen. Jim Elliott  
[EXHIBIT](#)(tah72a02)

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 833**

01:44:52 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 833 DO PASS.**  
**MOTION CARRIED** 11-7 by roll call vote with Reps. Bixby, Cohenour, Erickson, Grinde, Hamilton, McAlpin, and Pomnichowski voting no and Rep. Vincent voting by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:00 A.M.

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REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp